

GLAD

spring briefs

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders,

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THE AIDS LAW PROJECT

Working Against Discrimination

AIDS Law Project Director William Garza has filed a complaint of denial of access to a place of public accommodations against a Bangor, Maine dentist who refused to provide treatment to a gay man who was HIV+. Filed at Bangor Superior Court, the complaint, on behalf of our now deceased client, alleges that Dr. Randon Bragdon's receptionist told the man seeking treatment that the doctor would not accept anyone "with diseases like strep throat, HIV or anything else." In fact, the Maine Human Rights Commission ruled early this year that Dr. Bragdon's thirteen-year-old, written policy violated the complainant's civil rights under the Maine Civil Rights Act.

Project Director Garza, commented, "It's about time that this dentist, and all other dentists in Maine and throughout the country, realized they are subject to the anti-discrimination laws of the states they practice in and to applicable federal law."

Upon filing the case, Garza added, "Thirteen years of open, institutionalized, and invidious discrimination will come to an end. No one should have to put up with the embarrassment and

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN BOSTON

GLAD Stands at the Forefront of Struggles

For a second consecutive year, GLAD secured the right of members of the lesbian and gay community to participate in the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Boston. Representing the Irish-American Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Group of Boston (GLIB), GLAD sustained victories at every level of the state court system and in federal court as it proved the simple, but important, contention that GLIB had every right to participate in the celebration.

As ordered by Suffolk Superior Court Judge Hiller Zobel, 25 GLIB members marched under threatening skies during the twice-weather delayed event. Judge Zobel's decision saying that

GLIB had a constitutional and statutory right to take part in the "municipal event" was upheld three weeks later in a ruling by state Appeals Court Judge Frederick Brown.

In a strongly worded four-page order, Judge Brown denounced bigotry as "an obscenity" as he refused to lift the Zobel order. After verbally jousting with the lawyer for the South Boston Allied War Veterans Council, the parade's sponsor, Judge Brown strongly condemned discrimination.

Judge Brown eloquently stated, "It seems that societies have a persistent but perverse need to exclude and persecute certain of their members. In even its mildest form, this

need is usually manifested as hate toward a specific segment or group. It makes them into demons... This list of demons is long, and this case illustrates the capacity of individuals to forget the past. However, it pays to remember who is (or has been) on that list: Jews, women, Christians, blacks, abolitionists, Quakers, witches, Irish, Roman Catholics, communists, Asians, welfare recipients, pro-choice advocates, Haitians and now these plaintiffs. When will it end? It was wrong then, wrong now, and it can never be right. Bigotry in any form is an obscenity."

On March 28, the 25 marchers from GLIB joined the rest of the parade for the

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Board member Rhonda Waters (second from left) enjoying this year's Winter Party with three of our 350 guests.



Winter Partygoers on the mezzanine at the Boston Ballet Building.

Development Notes

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Waters—who is on both of our boards—for pulling this fundraiser together almost single-handedly. Guests not only got to see a marvelous and thought provoking evening of theater, but enjoyed a post-performance champagne reception.

Winter Party

The highlight of the past season—as it has been for the last ten years—was the Winter Party. Held at the elegant Boston Ballet Building in Boston's South End, the event attracted a record number of people who raised over \$31,000—also a record for contributions for the Party. While listening to the jazz stylings of a Berklee School of Music trio and sampling the delicacies from Michaelangelo's Catering, some 350 people mingled, chatted, and just had a good time. Held on one of the few weekends in which the weather was not a problem, the April 8 event was a success on every level.

Development Director Jim Marko would like to thank Board member Jan Shapiro, photographer Alyssa J. O'Mara, Michael Shulman and John Antonellis. ■

St. Patrick's Day

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three mile march through South Boston.

The number of people lining the route was well below the over half million of last year, and this may be the reason that the apt-gay jeers, insults and obscenities were discernibly fewer.

GLAD Civil Rights Law Director Mary Bonauto, one of the legal observers, noted the thrown snow balls, the smoke bombs and the tee shirt which read "90 Years Without Queers—South Boston Parade." But marchers and observers agreed that this year's march was easier and a less fearful experience.

Mary Bonauto and the rest of the GLIB legal team plan to seek a permanent order allowing the group to march in future parades. Attorney Bonauto was joined in the St. Patrick's victories by Cooperating Attorneys Philip Cronin and Elsie Kappler of Peabody & Arnold, John Ward of Zalkind & Rodriguez and Gretchen Van Ness, who is a solo practitioner. ■

▼ ADVOCATES & DEFENDERS



Upcoming Events

June 4

Celebrate with us during Pride Month at a Triangle Theater GLAD evening. It promises to be an outrageous evening of fun as we enjoy a production of *Camille* by Charles Ludlam and a post-performance party with the cast.

To book your tickets—which are only \$30 each and a tax-deductible gift to GLAD—please call Jim Marko at 426-1350. Seats are very limited for this special evening, so call today.

June 6

Feel free to join us as we walk in the 1993 From All Walks of Life. GLAD's AIDS Law Project is a recipient of a portion of this year's proceeds. Help us make Walk '93 a success.

June 12

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Pride Day in Boston.

July 31

It's never too early to plan to attend our annual Summer Party in Provincetown. Hundreds of friends will be joining us at David Schoolman's Land's End Inn for a Saturday afternoon of fun under the P'Town sun. And this year watch for other GLAD related events in town during this festive weekend.

October 12

A very special gala evening at the theatre to benefit GLAD—the Boston premiere of the Tony Award-winning, Broadway hit musical *Falsettos* at the Colonial Theatre. If you would like more information, call 426-6452.